

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter, which applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 23-25 if rewritten in independent form. Such claims depend from independent claim 22, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed herein. However, Applicants reserve the right to cast claims 23-25 into independent form at a later date, if necessary.

Claims 1-21, 30, and 34-36 have been canceled and claims 22, 23, 28, and 32 have been amended herein.

Claims 32 and 33 were objected to because the end of claim 32 was missing. Accordingly, claim 32 has been amended herein to include the missing elements. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 22 and 26-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Asai et al. (JP 2001-339196 A). Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. Asai et al. does not disclose a squeegee unit having a stirring squeegee shaped planar for stirring a viscous fluid, a leveling squeegee shaped planar for uniformly flattening said viscous fluid, as recited in independent claim 22. The examiner relies on a front portion and a back portion of squeegee 248 in Asai et al. as being equivalent to the claimed stirring squeegee and leveling squeegee, respectively. However, the front portion of squeegee 248 is not shaped for, nor utilized for, stirring a viscous fluid. Rather, Asai et al. only discloses employing the squeegee 248 to fill a flux hold crevice 216 with flux during a horizontal movement of a flux supporter 206. Stirring the flux, or any viscous fluid, is absent from Asai et al.

Independent claim 28 has been amended herein to require detecting a height of the viscous fluid transfer surface before the viscous fluid is transferred to the electronic component, and bringing down the sucking nozzle of the attachment head by an amount according to the detected height of said viscous fluid transfer surface. Asai et al. does not disclose such elements. Rather, Asai et al. discloses filling a flux crevice 216 with flux and moving the electronic part down into the flux crevice 216 such that a solder bump is made to contact the bottom plate 212 of the flux crevice 216. The depth of the flux crevice 216 determines the amount of flux transferred to the solder bump. Thus, in Asai et al., the nozzle holding the electronic part brings the part down by an amount according to the height of the bottom plate 212, rather than a detected height of the viscous fluid transfer surface, as required by claim 28.

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Because Asai et al. does not disclose each and every element set forth in independent claims 22 and 28, Asai et al. does not anticipate such claims. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

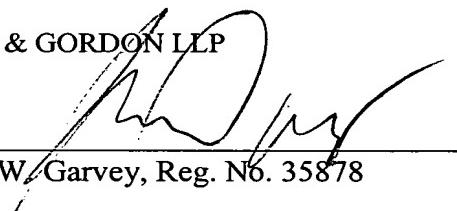
Claims 28-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mori et al. (US 6,581,282). Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. Mori et al. does not disclose detecting a height of the viscous fluid and bring down the sucking nozzle by an amount according to the detected height of the viscous fluid transfer surface, as required by amended claim 28. Rather, Mori et al. discloses moving the suction nozzles which hold the electronic components by an amount according to a height of a flat planar portion 202a of a flux transfer stage 202, such that the bumps 33e of the electronic component can be pressed against the flat planar portion 202a. (See also Figs. 10-12 of Mori et al.) Thus, because Mori et al. does not disclose each and every element set forth in claim 28, Mori et al. does not anticipate claim 28. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34236.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

  
Michael W. Garvey, Reg. No. 35878

1801 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 1200  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108  
(216) 579-1700

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